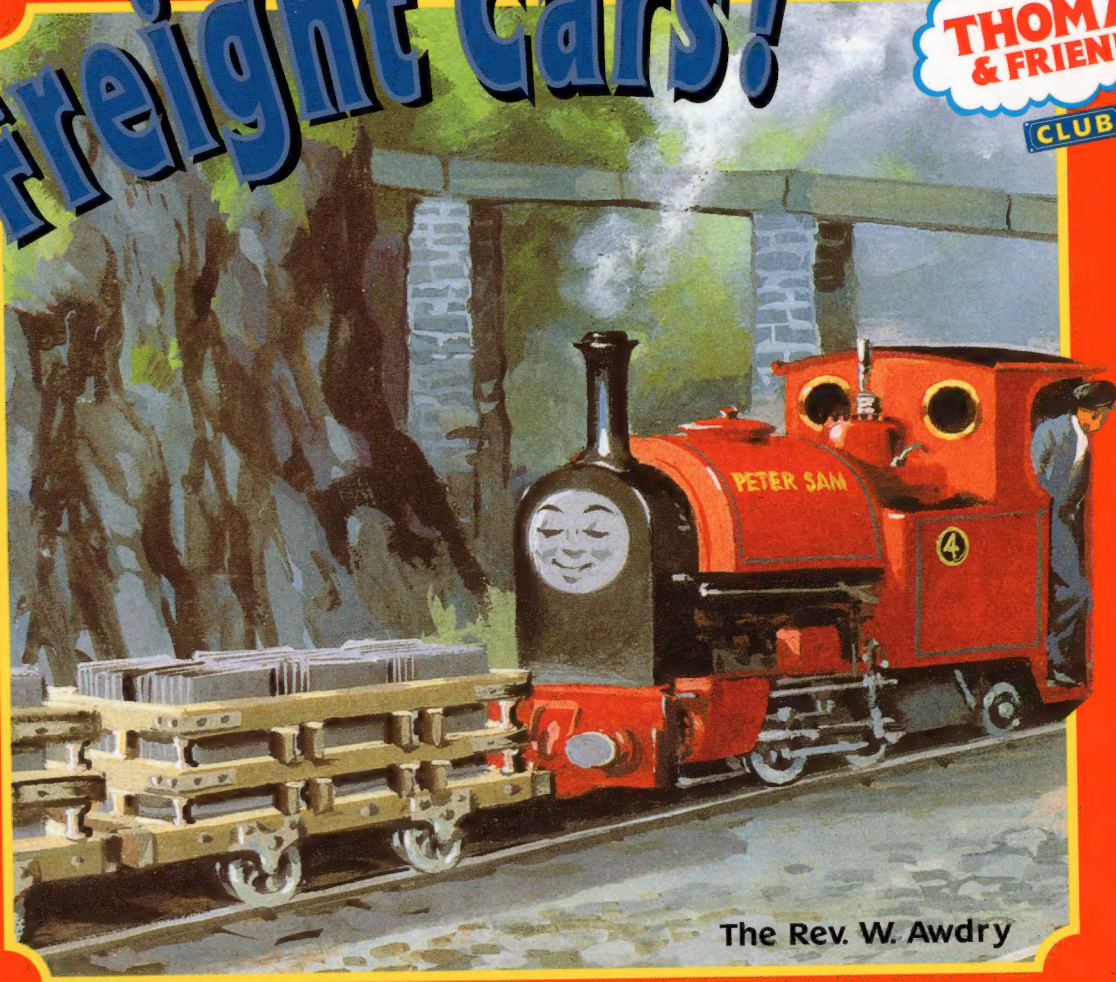


Freight Cars!

**THOMAS
& FRIENDS**
CLUB



The Rev. W. Awdry

 SCHOLASTIC

2

books in 1



REALLY USEFUL WORDS

BUFFER: something that protects by cushioning, such as the barrier at the end of a track or a “bumper” on the front and back of an engine

QUARRY: the place where stone is taken from the earth

SNIGGER: to laugh or snicker

COUPLE: to connect the engine and various cars and coaches together to form a train

FUNNEL: the hollow tube on top of a steam engine through which steam escapes

CAB: the area of the engine where the crew stands



Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends

A *Brit* ~~BRIT~~ ALLCROFT COMPANY PRODUCTION

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev W Awdry
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Freight Cars!



by
The REV. W. AWDRY

SCHOLASTIC INC.

New York Toronto London Auckland Sydney
Mexico City New Delhi Hong Kong Buenos Aires

You may wish to read this story before you read Home at Last.

Sir Handel and Peter Sam had hard work while Skarloey was away. The Owner gave them buffers, and even bought a Diesel named Rusty; but Sir Handel grumbled continually.

One day, Gordon saw him shunting, and laughed.

“My Controller *makes* me shunt,” Sir Handel said sheepishly, “*and* take freight cars to quarries, too. I’m highly sprung, and I suffer dreadfully.”

“Our Controllers don’t understand our feelings,” sympathized Gordon. “Now, if you were ill”—he winked—“you couldn’t go, could you?”



"Good idea," said Sir Handel. "I'll try it."

"I don't feel well," he groaned the next morning.

There wasn't time to examine him then, so some of the freight cars were coupled behind Peter Sam's coaches, and Rusty promised to follow with the rest.

"He! He! He!" sniggered Sir Handel; but no one noticed. They were all too busy.

Peter Sam didn't mind the extra work. He left his coaches at the top station, and trundled cheerfully through the woods. The freight cars chattered behind him in an agitated way, but he paid no attention.

It might have been better if he had.



Slates come from quarries high up in the hills. They travel down in freight cars on a steep railway called an Incline. Empty freight cars at the bottom are hitched to a rope. Loaded ones at the top are hitched to one another. By their weight, loaded freight cars run down the Incline pulling up empty ones.

There are strong brakes in the Winding House at the top to prevent loaded freight cars from running down too fast. The ropes are very strong, too, but in spite of this, freight cars sometimes play dangerous tricks.



Peter Sam never bumped freight cars unless they misbehaved. Sir Handel bumped them even if they were good; so they didn't like him, and played tricks whenever they could.

Peter Sam pushed the empty freight cars to a siding where his Fireman hitched them to the rope. Then, on another siding, he pulled back some loaded freight cars. With these in front of him, he stood waiting.

More loaded freight cars stood at the top of the Incline, ready to come down. They couldn't see Peter Sam. They thought he was Sir Handel, and wanted to pay him back.



They began to move. "Faster! Faster!" they grumbled. They reached halfway, gathering speed.

"Get him! Get him!" they yelled.

"No! No!" wailed the empty freight cars. "It's Peter Sam! It's Peter Sam!" But it was no use. The loaded freight cars were straining at the rope.

They broke it with a CRACK! "Hurrah! Hurrah!" they roared, hurtling down the hill.

Peter Sam heard them. He shut his eyes. His Driver and Fireman crouched in his cab.

The crash jerked him violently backward.

"Ouch!" he shivered. "I didn't expect a cold bath."



The water poured from a channel smashed by flying slates. He was soaked from funnel to cab.

"Peep! Peep!" he spluttered, and was glad when he heard Rusty's answering "Toot!"

"Bust my buffers!" exclaimed Rusty. "What a mess! Never mind, Peter Sam, we'll get you out." He soon pulled away from the water and the trucks.

Peter Sam felt battered. His funnel was cracked and his boiler dented, but he was glad his Driver and Fireman were unhurt.

He thanked Rusty, and limped slowly home. Rusty stayed to help clear the wreckage.



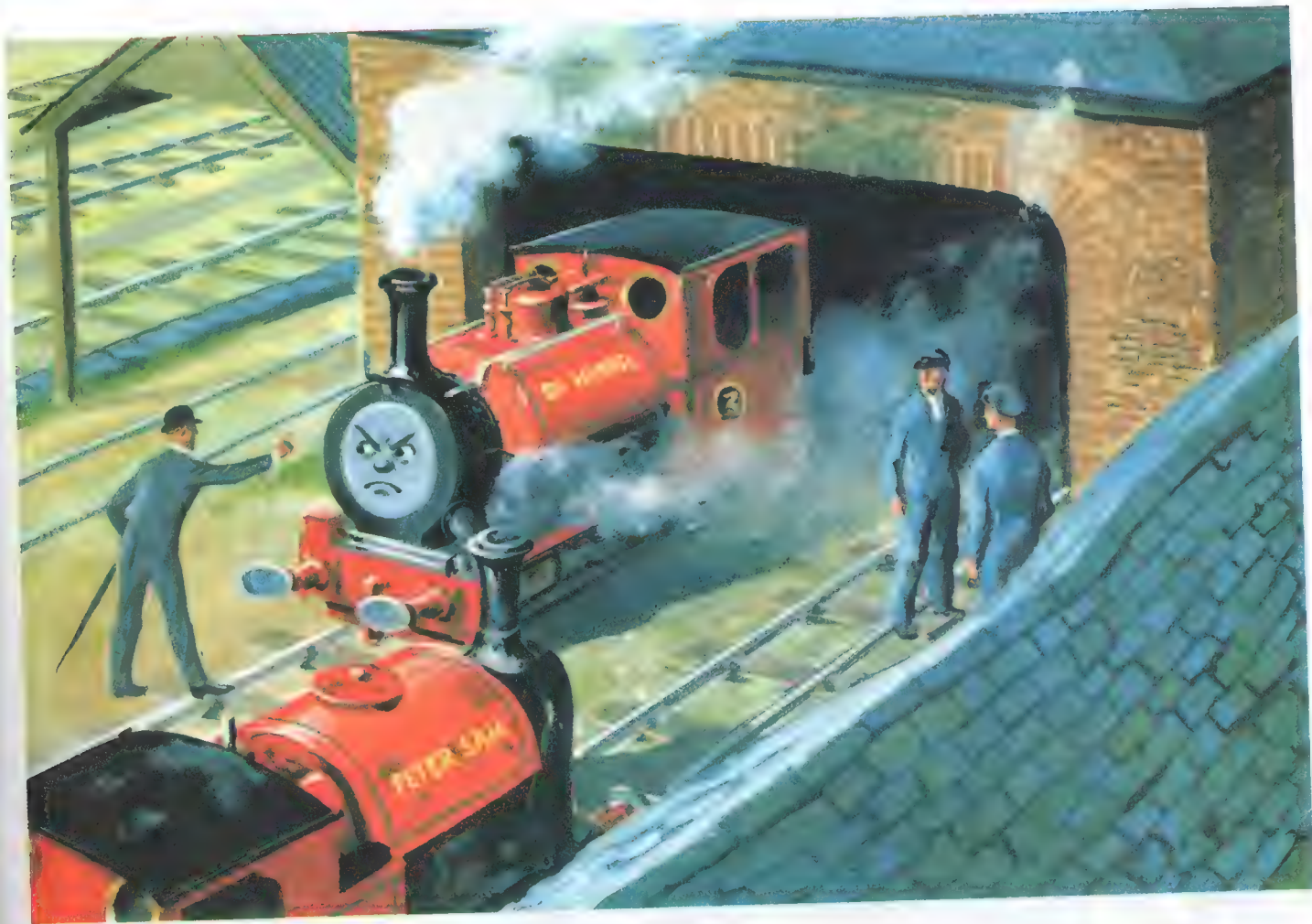
"I'm sorry about your accident, Peter Sam," said Sir Handel. "I always stand well back. Freight cars don't like me, you see."

"Why didn't you warn me?"

"I didn't think . . ."

"You never do," said a stern voice. "You can start now while you are doing Peter Sam's work as well as your own. That'll teach you to pretend you are ill."

Sir Handel did start thinking. He thought about Thin Controllers, and he thought about Gordon. He wanted to give Gordon a piece of his mind!





REALLY USEFUL WORDS

BOGIE: a part that allows train wheels to swivel

EXPRESS: a train that goes fast because it doesn't stop at every station

SIDING: a sidetrack that connects to the main track

CAB: the area of the engine where the crew stands

FUNNEL: the hollow tube on top of a steam engine through which steam escapes

ABASHED: to feel embarrassed or humiliated



Home at Last



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You may wish to read this story after you read Freight Cars!

Peter Sam wanted to start work; but the Thin Controller wouldn't let him. "Another day's rest will do you good," he said. "Besides, I've got a surprise for you."

"For me, Sir? How nice, Sir! What is it, Sir?"

"Wait and see," smiled the Thin Controller.

The "surprise" was Skarloey. "Oh!" said Peter Sam, "I am glad you've come home."

They lit Skarloey's fire, and he sizzled happily. "I feel all excited," he said, "just like a young engine. I'm longing to pull my dear old coaches again. Are they running nicely?"



"Yes, they're running well," Peter Sam answered, "but we have five other coaches now."

Skarloey was interested. "Oh!" he said, "tell me about them."

"Cora is a Guard's van. She isn't as big as Beatrice, and she hasn't a ticket window, but I like her best. She was my Guard's van in the old days. Ada, Jane, and Mabel are plain. They have no roofs. Sir Handel says they are freight cars; but they have seats," said Peter Sam, "so I say they're coaches. What do you think, Skarloey?"

The old engine smiled. "If they have seats, they're coaches," he said firmly.



“Sir Handel likes Gertrude and Millicent best,” Peter Sam went on. “He always tries to take them alone. They have bogies, and he says they’re the only real coaches we have. They remind him of when he used to pull our express. Both have seats for passengers, but Millicent has a Guard as well. He sells tickets and travels in a tiny cupboard place.

“I don’t like that,” he remarked earnestly. “Guards are very important. They need vans. They shouldn’t be put into cupboards.”

Skarloey said nothing, so Peter Sam continued.



"Did Rusty help you off your freight car?"

"Yes, he says he's come to mend the line and do odd jobs. I like him," smiled Skarloey.

"So do I." Peter Sam explained how kind Rusty was when he had his accident. "It's a pity Duncan doesn't like him."

"Who is Duncan?"

"He came as a spare engine after my accident."

"Is he Useful?"

"He'll pull anything, and I'm sure he means well; but he's bouncy and rude. He used to work in a factory, and his language is often strong."



"I understand," said Skarloey gravely.

Just then the telephone rang, and Skarloey's Driver and Fireman climbed into his cab.

"Come on, Old Boy," they said. "Duncan is stuck in the tunnel, and we'll have to get him out."

Skarloey was pleased. He wanted a run, and looked forward to meeting Duncan.

They found Cora and some workmen, and hurried up the line.

"How nice and smooth the rails are!" thought Skarloey. "They've mended all the old bumps. Rusty has helped to do that. I must tell him how nice it is."



Duncan had become stuck at the far end of the tunnel. His coaches were outside, and the passengers were helping the Driver and Fireman to dislodge some rocks wedged between the top of his cab and the tunnel roof.

Duncan was cross. "I'm a plain blunt engine," he kept saying. "I speak as I find. Tunnels should be tunnels, and not rabbit holes. This Railway is no good at all."

"Don't be silly," snapped his Driver. "This tunnel is quite big enough for engines who don't want to Rock 'n' Roll."



There's this book out in your town
Thomas & Friends

They cleared away the rocks, and Skarloey pulled Duncan and his coaches safely through. Cora was left on a siding, and the workmen stayed to make sure all was safe.

Duncan grumbled all the way home, but Skarloey paid no attention.

The Thin Controller was waiting for them.

“Listen to me, Duncan,” he said. “there is nothing wrong with that tunnel. You got stuck because you tried to do Rock ‘n’ Roll. If it happens again, I’ll cut down your cab, and your funnel too.”

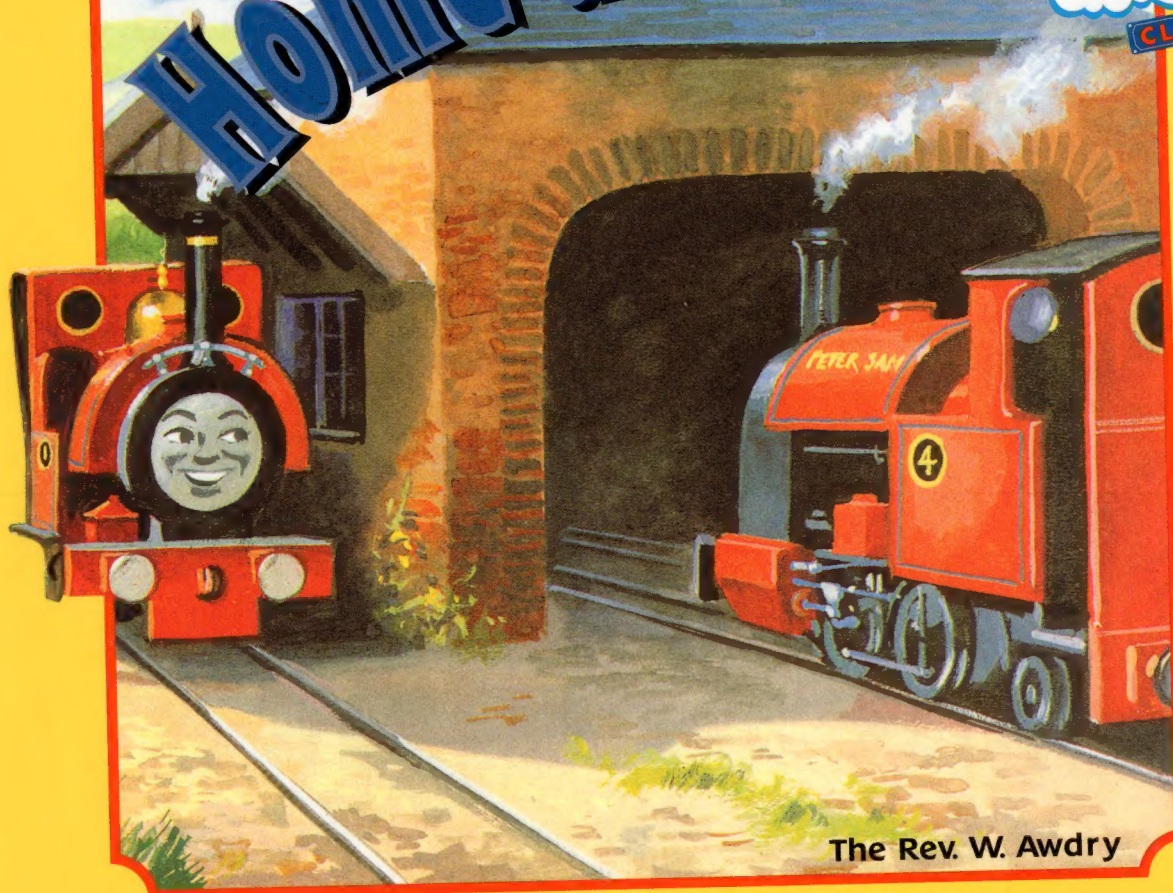
Duncan, abashed, was neither plain nor blunt for a whole evening.



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